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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

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LATE NEWS

The President of the Philippine Republic on March 23 issued a press announcement reaffirming his pledge for maximum protection for domestic tobacco and agreed with the legislative tobacco bloc that a technical committee be appointed to investigate the need for imported tobacco. However, a bill has been introduced by a sugar bloc congressman to permit the importation of tobacco equal to 20 percent of domestic requirements.

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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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1955 FOREIGN WALNUT PRODUCTION LARGEST SINCE 1938

With the two major walnut-producing countries abroad, France and Italy harvesting bumper crops, the 1955 foreign commercial production of walnuts was the largest since 1938.

In France, growing conditions in 1955 were considered favorable in both the Bordeaux and Grenoble areas. The 1955 French commercial crop is unofficially estimated at 28,500 short tons, or 2,000 tons more than in 1954. In addition, there were possibly 9,400 tons of 1955 crop walnuts which did not enter commercial channels. The Ministry of Agriculture has estimated the 1954 non-commercial production at 10,350 short tons.

In Italy, contrary to early season predictions, the 1955 walnut crop turned out exceptionally well. The size of the commercial crop is still not accurately known and there is considerable range in estimates but it is generally believed to have been about 30,000 tons.

At this level, the commercial crop would be the largest in the last 26 years for which records are available. In addition to the high yield, the quality of the nuts of the 1955 crop was far better than in 1954 when insect damage and mold deterioration played havoc with a number of export shipments and also reduced home consumption.

WALNUTS, UNSHELLED: Estimated commercial production in specified countries, average 1948-52, annual 1952-55

Country	Average 1948-52	1952	1953	1954	1955
			Short tons		
France	17,300	26,900	19,900	26,500	28,500
Italy	22,500	27,800	7,700	12,700	30,000
Syria	5,000	6,600	1/	4,400	3,300
Turkey	7,900	1,900	3,300	3,800	2,200
Yugoslavia	4,100	3,600	4,000	3,800	1/
Foreign total	56,800	66,800	39,900	51,200	68,100
United States	76,900	83,800	59,200	75,400	75,400
Total	133,700	150,600	99,100	126,600	143,500

1/ Five-year average, 1948-52, used to obtain totals since production estimate not available.

United States imports of shelled walnuts in 1955-56 may be the largest since the 1931-32 season. Official import statistics, available now only through December 1955, do not cover the months of heaviest imports this season-January through March. According to unofficial information, general imports this season, from September 1955 through March 1956, amounted to 12.1 million pounds, compared with only 3.5 million pounds imported September 1954 through March 1955, and 8.0 million pounds for the entire 1954-55 season. France, followed by Italy, has been the main supplier. Iran and Turkey have supplied lesser quantities.

Imports of in-shell walnuts, though greater than in previous seasons, have been negligible. All have come from Italy.

United States exports of in-shell walnuts, as a result of the strong domestic demand have been much below those of the previous season. In the September - December period, when the bulk of the export movement takes place, only 1.5 million pounds moved out this season, compared with 9.7 million pounds in the corresponding period of 1954-55. Almost all of the exports this season have gone to Canada and Cuba, the usual United States export markets for in-shell walnuts. Virtually no walnuts were sold to Western European countries this season, in contrast to the heavy sales last season.

WALNUTS, SHELLED AND UNSHELLED: Imports into the United States by country of origin, average 1948-52, annual 1951-55

Year beginning September 1

Country of origin	Average 1948-52	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955 1/
	- - - - - Short tons - - - - -					
	SHELLED					
France	810	740	2,338	2,068	1,388	584
Italy	633	904	785	406	269	327
Turkey	574	809	135	661	574	105
Rumania	55	95	31	11	42	0
Iran	184	230	158	463	1,066	148
India	92	388	51	15	560	21
Other	2/ 624	107	40	55	83	3
Total	2,972	3,273	3,538	3,679	3,982	1,188
	UNSHELLED					
Italy	19	7	53	0	0	35
Other	3/ 12	1	0	0	0	0
Total	31	8	53	0	0	35

1/ Four months, September - December. 2/ Includes 562 tons from China.
3/ Mostly France.

WALNUTS, SHELLED AND UNSHELLED: Exports from the United States by country of destination, average 1948-52, annual 1951-55

Year beginning September 1

Country of destination	Average 1948-52	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955 1/
	- - - Short tons - - -					
	SHELLED					
Canada	32	3	8	5	12	4
Panama, Rep. of	1	2	2	2/	1	1
Canal Zone	7	6	6	4	2	8
Venezuela	8	9	10	7	6	10
Saudi Arabia	2	3	5	1	7	1
Philippines, Rep. of	3	1	4	5	6	1
Japan	2	4	4	8	2	2
Other	9	6	4	23	28	4
Total	64	34	43	53	64	31
	UNSHELLED					
Canada	915	882	1,118	1,046	1,460	986
Sweden	0	0	0	2/	52	1
Norway	0	0	0	2/	770	2/
Netherlands	0	0	0	2/	640	2/
Germany, Wn	3/	0	3/	2/	990	2/
Switzerland	0	0	0	1	321	2/
Belgium-Luxembourg	13	0	0	2/	131	2/
Cuba	375	411	333	235	305	357
Mexico	19	19	29	26	15	18
Brazil	68	0	0	2/	33	2/
Canal Zone	10	8	12	13	12	2/
Guatemala	12	12	10	4	18	12
Venezuela	49	45	58	34	88	85
Peru	5	9	10	17	42	5
Costa Rica	4	6	6	15	7	5
Philippines, Rep. of	5	1	4	3	11	9
Other	61	56	44	52	96	71
Total	1,536	1,449	1,624	1,446	4,991	1,549

1/ Four months, September - December.
2/ If any, included in "other".
3/ Less than one-half ton.

CENTRAL AFRICAN FEDERATION TOBACCO EXPORTS DOWN 8.2 MILLION POUNDS

Exports of unmanufactured tobacco from the Central African Federation (Rhodesias and Nyasaland) during 1955 totaled 124.3 million pounds, 8.2 million pounds below the 1954 record high of 132.5 million pounds. Flue-cured shipments totaled 106.6 million pounds, 1.9 million pounds less than the previous year, and accounted for 85.8 percent of total exports as compared with 81.9 percent in 1954. Exports of dark fire-cured and other types declined 4.8 and 1.5 million pounds, respectively, from the 1954 level.

CENTRAL AFRICAN FEDERATION: Exports of unmanufactured tobacco during 1955, with comparisons

Country of Destination	1953	1954	1955 1/
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Commonwealth Countries:			
United Kingdom	71,208	77,488	67,995
Australia	8,220	11,243	11,145
Union of South Africa	1,883	1,459	11,238
Other Commonwealth	4,672	7,440	6,534
Total Commonwealth	85,983	97,630	96,912
Non-Commonwealth Countries:			
Netherlands	7,482	8,635	6,415
Western Germany	2,996	2,416	3,613
Belgian Congo	5,086	6,656	3,036
Belgium	1,221	1,549	2,176
Egypt	2,572	2,886	2,037
Denmark	1,603	4,458	1,638
Sweden	2,072	1,955	1,460
Norway	345	613	886
Austria	432	550	783
Other Foreign	4,068	5,114	5,339
Total Non-Commonwealth	27,877	34,832	27,383
GRAND TOTAL	113,860	132,462	124,295

1/ Preliminary.

Consignments to Commonwealth countries totaled 96.9 million pounds and were slightly below the 1954 exports of 97.6 million pounds. Exports to the United Kingdom totaled 68.0 million pounds, 9.5 million pounds less than in 1954, while consignments to the Union of South Africa increased from 1.5 to 11.2 million pounds. Shipments to other Commonwealth countries declined 1.0 million pounds from the previous year, largely as a result of reduced consignments to Nigeria, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Hong Kong, Malaya and Singapore.

Exports to non-Commonwealth countries during 1955 totaled 27.4 million pounds, 7.4 and .5 million pounds below the 1954 and 1953 levels, respectively. Most of the decline occurred in reduced consignments to the Netherlands, Belgian Congo, Denmark, Sweden, Burma, and Indochina. Foreign countries which increased their takings of Federation leaf in 1955 included Belgium, Western Germany, Austria, France, Norway, Finland, Portugal and Spain.

U.K. CONSUMPTION OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS CONTINUES UPWARD

Consumption of tobacco products in the United Kingdom, as indicated by sales to the public, during 1955 totaled 246.2 million pounds, 5.6 million pounds greater than 1954, and 9.1 percent above the 1947-51 annual average of 225.6 million pounds. Cigarette consumption continues upward and has increased 18.6 percent from the postwar low of 177.9 million pounds in 1949. Consumption of cigarettes during 1955 represented 85.7 percent of total consumption as compared with 76.3 percent during 1935-39. Consumption of smoking tobacco continues downward while consumption of cigars and snuff has been relatively constant since World War II.

UNITED KINGDOM: Consumption of tobacco products, as indicated by sales to the public during 1955, with comparisons

Year	Cigarettes	Cigars	Smoking tobacco	Snuff	Total
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
1935-39 Av.	145.8	0.9	43.3	1.0	191.0
1947-51 Av.	185.6	0.6	38.7	0.7	225.6
1953	198.5	0.7	35.8	0.7	235.7
1954	203.9	0.7	35.3	0.7	240.6
1955	211.0	0.7	33.8	0.7	246.2

Source: Board of Trade and Tobacco Bulletin (Supplement to Tobacco Intelligence), March 1956.

FRENCH TOBACCO IMPORTS DOWN 12.6 MILLION POUNDS

Imports of unmanufactured tobacco by the French Tobacco Monopoly during 1955 totaled 85.8 million pounds, 12.6 million pounds below the postwar high of 98.3 million pounds in 1954. Most of the decline occurred in reduced takings from the United States, Greece and the French Overseas Territories. Imports from the overseas territories declined 12.1 million pounds from the 1954 level of 45.8 million pounds, while takings from the United States and Greece declined 3.6 and 6.1 million pounds, respectively.

FRANCE: Imports of unmanufactured tobacco by country of origin during 1955, with comparisons

Country of Origin	1953	1954	1955 1/
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
United States	5,990	12,545	8,925
Brazil	1,343	3,142	6,159
Dominican Republic	1,175	723	3,249
Colombia	1,067	2,808	2,078
Italy	2,617	2,225	3,338
Turkey	4,078	5,767	6,088
Greece	8,097	14,959	8,872
Yugoslavia	5,998	5,957	7,604
Algeria	21,677	27,895	19,087
Madagascar	6,671	12,617	9,605
Cameroon	922	2,654	2,394
Others	2,549	7,038	8,359
Total	62,184	98,330	85,758

1/ Preliminary.
Source: French Customs Bureau.

Imports from other sources, particularly Yugoslavia, Turkey and Brazil, have increased substantially due to the various trade arrangements by which France exports industrial goods in exchange for agricultural commodities. Consignments from the Central African Federation during 1955 totaled 1.0 million pounds in contrast to previous years when takings were nil.

NETHERLANDS TOBACCO IMPORTS DOWN 24.1 MILLION POUNDS

Netherlands' gross imports of unmanufactured tobacco (direct imports plus withdrawals from bond) during 1955 totaled 63.9 million pounds, 24.1 million pounds below the record high of 88.0 million pounds in 1954. Most of the decline occurred in smaller takings from the United States, Brazil, Indonesia, Italy, Southern Rhodesia, Canada, and India.

Imports of United States leaf declined 10.3 million pounds from the 1954 level of 34.0 million pounds. Takings of all United States types declined with the greatest reductions shown in imports of seedleaf (cigar leaf) and flue-cured. Imports of flue-cured alone declined 9.6 million pounds from the 1954 takings of 27.0 million pounds. Also, combined imports of flue-cured from Southern Rhodesia, Canada and India were about 2.0 million pounds below the previous year.

NETHERLANDS: Gross imports of unmanufactured tobacco, direct and from bonded warehouses during 1955, with comparisons

Country of Origin	1953	1954	1955 1/
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
United States	25,486	34,037	23,479
Indonesia	8,710	13,301	8,126
Brazil	6,808	9,519	5,212
Greece	1,332	2,119	2,687
Turkey	4,361	7,652	9,317
Southern Rhodesia	5,851	5,824	4,034
India	3,939	2,921	2,811
Canada	57	343	148
Italy	3,082	3,307	2,101
Cuba	816	1,241	1,358
Other	11,869	7,730	4,630
Total	72,311	87,994	63,903

1/ Preliminary.
Source: Maandstatistiek vande in-,uit-en doorvoer per goederensoort, December 1955

Gross imports of oriental tobaccos (Turkish, Greek, Bulgarian and Yugoslav) were 2.1 million pounds greater than in 1954. Reexports of these tobaccos increased .9 million pounds, destined mainly to the United Kingdom, but usings of these tobaccos by Dutch manufacturers increased 1.2 million pounds over the previous year.

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U. S. EXPORTS OF COTTON LINTERS, JANUARY 1956

United States exports of cotton linters (mostly chemical grades, 5-7) during January 1956 amounted to 55,000 bales (500 pounds gross) increasing 17 percent from exports of 47,000 bales of linters in December 1955, but nearly twice the exports of 28,000 bales in January 1955.

Linters exports for the 6-month period August-January 1955-56 amounted to 213,000 bales or 55 percent higher than exports in the comparable 6 months of 1954-55. Principal destinations of United States linters exports in the current period, with comparable 1954-55 figures in parentheses were: Western Germany 76,000 (48,000); the United Kingdom 47,000 (29,000); France 29,000 (24,000); Japan 27,000 (15,000); Canada 14,000 (11,000); and the Netherlands 14,000 (3,000).

U. S. IMPORTS OF COTTON LINTERS, JANUARY 1956

United States imports of cotton linters (mostly felting grades, 1-4) in January 1956 amounted to 25,000 bales (500 pounds gross) increasing sharply from the 15,000 bales imported in December 1955. Imports in January 1955 also amounted to 15,000 bales.

Linters imports for the 6-month period August-January 1955-56 amounted to 111,000 bales or 28 percent higher than imports of 87,000 bales in August-January 1954-55. Principal sources of linters imports in the current period with 1954-55 figures in parentheses were: Mexico 76,000 (46,000); the U.S.S.R. 21,000 (13,000); Brazil 4,000 (10,000); Belgium 2,000 (388); Peru 2,000 (2,000); El Salvador 2,000 (2,000); Guatemala 1,000 (10,000); and Nicaragua 1,000 (1,000).

U. S. COTTON IMPORTS JANUARY 1956

United States imports of cotton (for consumption) in January 1956 amounted to 13,000 bales (500 pounds gross) dropping 28 percent from the imports of 18,000 bales in December 1955, and 24 percent below imports of 17,000 bales in January 1955.

Imports for the 6-month period, August-January 1955-56 amounted to 92,000 bales, an increase of 61 percent over imports of 57,000 bales in the comparable 6-month period of 1954-55. Most of the increases were in imports from Egypt, Pakistan, and Mexico.

UNITED STATES: Imports of cotton by countries of origin; averages 1935-39 and 1945-49; annual 1953 and 1954; and August-January 1954-55 and 1955-56

(Equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of origin	Year beginning August 1				August-January	
	Average		1953	1954	1954-55	1955-56
	1935-39	1945-49				
	1,000 bales					
Brazil	3	1	2	1	1	1/
China	2/ 31	3/ 1/	0	0	0	0
Egypt	63	103	77	4/ 73	20	32
India	67	103	18	17	5	3
Mexico	23	19	17	20	7	21
Pakistan	5/	6/ 12	14	11	5	16
Peru	1	23	8	22	14	18
Sudan	7/	2/ 4	7	3	3	1
U.S.S.R.	3/ 5	6/ 1	1	1	1	1
Others 8/	0	0	1	2	1	1/
Total	185	9/ 260	145	150	57	92

1/ Less than 500 bales. 2/ 4-year average. 3/ 2-year average. 4/ Includes 147 bales transshipped via Italy. 5/ Included with India prior to partition in 1947. 6/ 3-year average. 7/ Included with Egypt prior to 1942. 8/ Includes small quantities which are reexported each year. 9/ Total does not add due to partial averages.

Compiled from officials records of the Bureau of the Census.

BURMA LOWERS RICE PRICES

Export prices set for Burmese rice in 1956 are down about 13 percent as compared with prices for 1955. The basic Government-to-Government price of Ngasein Small Mills Special, 42 percent broken, was reduced from 42£ per long ton ($5.23 per 100 pounds) to 36£ 5 shillings ($4.53 per 100 pounds). It is reported that the trade believes these prices still are high, and that a more realistic price of 34£ per ton ($4.25 per 100 pounds) probably will prevail by the end of 1956.

BURMA: Export prices of rice (Government-to-Government), f.o.b., 1956

Quality	Percent of brokens	Prices per Long ton	Prices per 100 pounds
	Percent	Pounds, shillings	Dollars
White Rice:			
Ngasein (Medium short-grain)			
Loonzain (brown rice)	12	33-18	4.24
Small Mills Special (SMS)	42	36-5	4.53
Small Mills Quality (SMQ)	38	36-17	4.61
Superior Quality (SQ)	35	38-17	4.86
Europe No. 3	30	39-15	4.97
Europe No. 2	25	41-5	5.16
Europe No. 1	15	43-5	5.41
Sughandi (Long-grain)			
Loonzain (brown rice)	18	36-1	4.51
Small Mills Special (SMS)	35	38-17	4.86
Sughandi Japan	15	42-3	5.27
Sughandi Super	15	44-5	5.53
Boiled Rice:			
Full boiled	12	36-17	4.61
Milchar No. 2	10	37-16	4.72
Milchar No. 1	8	38-5	4.78
Long boiled	10	41-10	5.19

1 pound sterling converted at $2.80.

PHILIPPINE RICE REQUIREMENTS

The rice crop of the Philippine Republic in 1955-56 is estimated at 7,139 million pounds of rough rice compared with 7,061 million pounds in 1954-55, according to the official estimate of March 1, 1956. Since the harvest is now practically completed, little change from this estimate may be expected during the remainder of the crop year.

This production is only 17,000 metric tons (37 million pounds) in excess of the estimated gross requirements of 2,044,000 metric tons (4,506 million pounds) of milled rice. The gross requirement includes seed, waste and animal feed and allows for growth in population. The net requirement is calculated on the basis of 330 grams per person per day for a rice-eating population of approximately 16 million people.

Since the relatively small amount of 17,000 tons in excess of gross requirements does not provide ample operating stocks, imports will be needed to avoid unequitable prices. These imports will be considerably larger than would be necessary were adequate facilities available for distribution from surplus to deficit areas of the Philippine Republic.

The Republic in recent months has been endeavoring to barter some 20,000 metric tons of sugar for rice with Iran and Burma, but due to unsatisfactory price terms, transactions have not materialized. An agreement was signed March 19 with Portugal for the exchange of 14,000 tons of raw sugar for rice on a ton-for-ton basis. Portuguese rice is reported to be of the pearl variety and semi-glutinous.

This rice from Portugal will be landed with a value of approximately $118.50 per metric ton ($5.38 per 100 pounds) and will be turned over to the Sugar Planters' Association for sale in the Philippine sugar area. The National Rice and Corn Corporation will receive a commission for import arrangements and handling charges.

Offers recently have been received from Thailand to barter rice for sugar. About 20,000 metric tons of Thai rice is mentioned as available which can be landed in Manila on a c. & f. basis at $109 per metric ton ($4.94 per 100 pounds).

VENEZUELAN RICE ACREAGE REDUCTION ANNOUNCED

Venezuelan rice acreage in 1956 will be 22,000 hectares (54,000 acres), from which it is expected 24,000 metric tons of milled rice (81 million pounds rough) will be obtained, according to a press announcement of the Director of Agriculture of the Venezuelan Development Corporation. The Director stated also that 25,000 acres will be planted by the colonists of the National Agrarian Institute, and 18,000 acres will be financed privately, leaving 11,000 acres to be financed by the Corporation.

Venezuela's record rice production in 1953 reached 215 million pounds of rough rice harvested from 155,000 acres. A sharp reduction in acreage was announced early in the 1954 season, though ultimately the estimate of total acreage was 150,000 acres. Because of substantially smaller yields than were harvested in the bumper crop of 1955, production was 165 million pounds of rough rice, a decline of 23 percent.

Total rice stocks at the present time probably do not exceed 25,000 metric tons of milled rice (55 million pounds) which is about the quantity that will be consumed between now and the September rice harvest.

TUNISIA FORECASTS
LARGE GRAIN CROP

Preliminary forecasts indicate that Tunisia's 1956 grain crop will be considerably above the small 1955 outturn. Total wheat production is forecast at about 23.5 million bushels. This would be the largest wheat crop on record for Tunisia. On the basis of the present outlook, soft wheat amounts to about 7.5 million bushels and durum 16 million bushels. This compares with 4 million bushels of soft wheat and 11 million of durum last year.

The over-all wheat yield should be more than adequate for consumption needs. Some fears are expressed regarding the quality of this season's soft wheat crop, which was adversely affected by excessive rains. Barley production is forecast at about 9.5 million bushels, more than twice the small 1955 harvest.

TRANSSHIPMENTS OF MEXICAN
COTTON, JANUARY 1956

Transshipments of Mexican cotton through United States ports in January 1956 amounted to 128,000 bales (500 pounds gross) continuing the decline registered since November transshipments of 196,000 bales to 152,000 bales in December 1955, but more than twice the transshipments of 60,000 bales in January 1955. Transshipment figures for Mexican cotton include cotton linters, waste, and hull fiber, but do not include direct shipments from Mexican to foreign ports, or rail shipments through the United States to Canada.

Transshipments for the 6-month period, August-January 1955-56, amounted to 775,000 bales or 38 percent above transshipments of 561,000 bales in the comparable period of 1954-55. Most of the increase has been in transshipments to Western Germany and the United Kingdom. Japan and Belgium have taken smaller amounts. Quantities transshipped to the principal destinations in the current period, with 1954-55 figures in parentheses were: Western Germany 181,000 bales (97,000); Japan 125,000 (138,000); the United Kingdom 117,000 (78,000); the Netherlands 89,000 (77,000); Belgium 75,000 (92,000); Sweden 47,000 (18,000); Italy 37,000 (13,000); Switzerland 20,000 (17,000); Australia 18,000 (none); and France 15,000 (13,000).

Total exports from Mexico to all destinations (including cotton to be transshipped through the United States) amounted to 1,323,000 bales during August-January 1955-56, or 49 percent higher than the 885,000 bales exported in the same months of 1954-55. These figures include, respectively, 915,000 and 664,000 bales exported to the United States mostly for transshipment. Under the United States import quota for Upland-type cotton, only 18,500 bales of Mexican cotton are permitted to enter annually for consumption in the United States.

INDONESIA'S COPRA EXPORTS DOWN ONE-FIFTH IN 1955

Indonesian copra exports during 1955 are reported officially at 230,692 long tons, net weight. This is a decline of 20 percent from the 290,015 net tons exported in 1954 and 55 percent less than average prewar exports. In addition to these exports there are sizable unrecorded quantities of copra shipped to Malaya. Unrecorded shipments in 1955 are estimated unofficially at about 22,000 tons compared with 25,000 tons in 1954. Factors contributing to the decline in exports apparently included transportation and marketing difficulties, competition by Philippine copra in European markets, and some increase in domestic consumption.

Indonesia: Copra exports (net), average 1935-39, annual 1952-1955
(Long tons)

Country	Average 1935-39	1952 1/	1953 1/	1954 1/2/	1955 1/2/
Mexico	12,614	---------	---------	---------	---------
United States	3,909	---------	---------	---------	---------
Belgium-Luxembourg	8,053	---------	---------	984	500
Czechoslovakia	4,896	---------	---------	1,969	4,921
Denmark	72,375	20,914	1,581	2,968	3,000
France	12,748	23,214	16,313	6,352	2,935
Italy	23,103	---------	499	1,976	---------
Netherlands	133,841	94,682	98,217	65,292	20,050
Norway	31,810	8,673	17,147	1,984	5,500
Poland	1,422	---------	700	492	5,413
Sweden	6,886	5,125	19,745	22,809	11,999
Switzerland	17	---------	---------	---------	299
United Kingdom	412	---------	---------	984	---------
Western Germany	3/ 64,674	108,855	66,882	43,977	32,744
China	2,865	---------	---------	4,921	13,103
Japan	6,180	697	16,435	34,053	33,364
Malaya	10,226	9,127	9,799	25,479	26,109
Singapore	107,285	47,704	51,784	67,364	67,670
Others	4,069	19,226	2	8,411	3,085
Total	507,385	338,217	299,104	290,015	230,692

1/ Does not include unrecorded shipments to Malaya. 2/ Preliminary.
3/ Total Germany.

Compiled from official statistics.

The most significant feature of the 1955 trade was the sharp decline in shipments to most Western European countries, particularly the Netherlands, Sweden and Western Germany. Exports to the Netherlands were less than one-third the quantity shipped to that country in 1954 and less than one-sixth average prewar exports. The tonnage shipped to Sweden declined from 1954 by one-half and shipments to Western Germany by over 10,000 tons. In contrast, exports to China at 13,103 tons more than doubled 1954 sales to that country.

SOUTH AFRICAN PEANUT, SUNFLOWER CROPS APPROXIMATE LARGE 1954 OUTTURN

Peanut production in the Union of South Africa, which has increased sharply in recent years, amounted to 137,000 short tons, shelled basis, in 1955 compared with 139,400 tons in 1954. Exports during the marketing year (May-April) 1955-56 are estimated at 17,000 tons of edible grade nuts, 37,000 tons of crushing nuts and 34,000 tons exported as oil. Local crushers consumed 33,000 tons of nuts and 8,500 tons were used for human consumption.

Sunflower seed production in 1955 was reported at 57,400 tons compared with 55,899 tons in 1954. Exports in the 1955-56 marketing year are estimated at 1,200 tons against 9,000 tons in 1954-55.

Prices in general have decreased. The Oilseed Control Board's advance price for the 1955-56 season was £45 ($126) per short ton for the most common type of peanuts (Virginia Bunch and Natal Common, grade S 2) compared with £49 ($137) for the 1954-55 season. Sunflower seed prices were £20 per ton ($56) compared with £21 ($59) the previous year. Advance prices for the 1956-57 season, which will be announced in about a month, are expected to be somewhat lower.

INDIAN CASTOR BEAN PRODUCTION UP

India's 1955-56 castor bean production amounted to 141,120 short tons, according to the final official estimate. This was 1.6 percent larger than the 1954-55 crop, now revised to 138,880 tons. The new crop was harvested from 1,462,000 acres, representing a 4.9 percent increase over the previous year.

ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ANALYZES FROST DAMAGE TO FRUIT

The Italian General Confederation of Agriculture indicates that the February frosts have seriously damaged peaches in the Emilia-Romagna Area, particularly in the Province of Ravenna. Plums and apricots have also been damaged, but to a lesser extent.

While both citrus fruit and trees suffered extensively, the change now believed to have been less than originally reported. Almonds were hurt considerably, with some areas hit harder than others.

All areas have reported damage to vegetable crops and northern provinces report damage to the grape vineyards. Apple and pear trees escaped with little or no damage.

NEW SOUTH WALES APPLE AND PEAR CROP ESTIMATES

The Department of Agriculture of New South Wales, Australia forecasts a large apple crop of 2,100,000 bushels this season. Last year's recorded apple production was 1,163,000 bushels. Good rainfall throughout most of the growing season has favored tree and fruit development; however, excessive rain has fallen in some areas impeding harvesting and causing severe waterlogging. Hail storms have been widespread and very severe in a number of districts, although the important Armidale region escaped serious damage. Over one-half of this year's crop is of the Granny Smith variety and the remainder is mostly of the Jonathan, Delicious, and Democrat varieties. The overall quality of apples is below average mainly due to extensive hail blemishes and black spot scars.

The pear crop is expected to approximate 400,000 bushels which, although an average crop, is well below last year's record of 536,000 bushels. The leading varieties of pears are Williams and Packham's Triumph with others being Winter Cole, Beurre Bosc, and Josephine. The quality and size of the pears is generally good.

SOUTH AFRICAN DECIDUOUS FRUIT EXPORTS DECLINE

Fruit exports by the South African Deciduous Fruit Board during the current season up through February 17 are shown in the following table in comparison with exports for a corresponding period in the past 2 seasons.

Commodity	1953-54 Thru Feb. 9	1954-55 Thru Feb. 18	1955-56 Thru Feb. 17
	Short tons		
Apples	---	35	---
Apricots	939	913	475
Grapes	3,624	3,439	942
Nectarines	19	14	17
Peaches	832	853	1,088
Pears	5,768	10,301	3,479
Plums	2,050	2,002	1,986
Total	13,232	17,557	7,987

NEW ZEALAND TO SHIP APPLES TO FRANCE

The first shipment of 34,000 boxes of apples was scheduled to leave Hawke's Bay for France on March 22 according to the New Zealand Apple and Pear Marketing Board. A second shipment of 30,000 boxes is expected to leave later in the season.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS RAISIN STABILIZATION PLAN

After nearly 2 years of exploratory discussions and negotiations, the Australian dried vine fruits industry has submitted a stabilization program for consideration to the Federal Government, which may be accepted by both the growers and the Government. The plan is based on a cost-of-production basis to be ascertained each season by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics by index movements in factual costs as determined at the beginning of the program.

In the plan, the Government would guarantee a floor price of 10 Australian pounds per long ton ($20.00 per short ton) below the annually determined f.o.b. net costs. A ceiling price of 20 Australian pounds ($40.00 per short ton) above the guaranteed floor price is planned, with growers contributing all surpluses realized above this ceiling price into a Government-controlled stabilization fund. Growers will retain the margin between the floor price and ceiling price. However, in case growers of a certain variety realize more than the guaranteed floor price for that variety, and growers of another variety realize less than the floor price, no variety may retain its realized surplus until all varieties have received the guaranteed floor price.

The stabilization fund will be drawn upon for payment to growers when returns fall below the guaranteed floor price. In the event this fund is exhausted, the Treasury will be called upon to pay the difference between the realizations and guaranteed floor price.

Due to disposal difficulties, the Government insisted on the inclusion in the plan of a quantitative limitation for lexias (Waltham and Gordos raisins), which has been suggested at 10,500 long tons for any one year. Consequently, it appears that sultana and currant growers will have to pay out a portion of the surpluses realized over their guaranteed floor prices to assist the lexia growers. Since demand for lexias is poor, it is unlikely that they will realize the guaranteed floor price.

For adjustment purposes within the average guaranteed floor price production costs for each variety will be applied. The average cost of production has been established at $180.00 per short ton, and at this level the varietal costs of production would be: currants, $189.00; sultanas, $180.00; and raisins, $162.50 per short ton.

The above costs of production were calculated on a sweatbox basis, but under the plan, packers' and agents' charges would be added to these costs, arriving at an approximate f.o.b. cost to which the $20.00 per short ton "above and below" basis would apply.

The program as outlined above is now in the hands of the Government for consideration and eventual approval by Cabinet, and may still be altered in some details. If the plan is accepted by the Government, it will be submitted to the growers for approval by ballot.

NEW POTATO CROP PROSPECTS IN EUROPE

The weather has been unfavorable for the development of the potato crop in the Palma de Majorca area (Spanish Islands). The first shipments are expected by May 10. A small shipment of potatoes left Malaga for London the week of March 26. There is some doubt when further shipments will be made. Weather in the Valencia area has also been unfavorable, and shipments may start by May 16.

Shipments of Italian new potatoes are expected to begin by May 20. Good crops are expected in the Calabria and Emilia areas, with a much smaller crop in the Apulia area.

The French crop of new potatoes is expected to be about equal to last year's crop of approximately 75,000 metric tons, if growing conditions are average for the balance of the season. However, the crop is late, with first shipments to begin in late May, with peak shipments probably in mid-June.

1955 SPANISH DRIED APRICOT PACK UP

The 1955 dried apricot production in Spain has been estimated at 16,500 short tons, or 3,500 tons more than the estimated 1954 production of 13,000 tons. Most of the Spanish dried apricot pack is consumed domestically, and only a relatively small proportion exported.

Exports for 1955 are expected to amount to about 900 short tons, about the same as in 1954. Export data for the period January 1 through September 30, 1955 indicate that Finland was by far the largest outlet, taking 134 tons of Spanish dried apricots, followed by Canada with 102 tons, Denmark with 93 tons, and Sweden with 79 tons. Wholesale prices in Spain in 1955, despite the larger production, reportedly averaged about 17.5 cents per pound, or 1.2 cents higher than in 1954.

Estimated supply and disposition in 1954 and 1955 is as follows:

	1954	1955
	- - - Short tons	- - -
Beginning stocks	200	500
Production	13,000	16,500
Exports	900	900
Other disappearance	11,800	15,400
Ending stocks	500	700

DENMARK'S EXPORTS OF DAIRY PRODUCTS IN 1955

The export of dairy products ranks high in Denmark as an important earner of foreign currency to pay for that country's many imports. In 1955, total export of dairy products made up 18 percent of Denmark's overall earnings from exports and 31 percent of the export of agricultural products. Overall, dairy products exported during 1955 totaled more than $183 million, 4 percent less than in 1954. This decline was primarily due to smaller shipments, as prices for practically all of the important dairy products increased.

Butter made up approximately 70 percent of dairy products exports in 1955, somewhat less than 20 percent was cheese and the balance consisted of fresh milk, canned and dried milk.

Danish butter exports in 1955 amounted to 285.0 million pounds, a drop of 8 percent from 1954. The major part (69 percent) of 1955 shipments went to the United Kingdom. Other important markets were Western Germany, Finland, French Morocco, Switzerland, Eastern Germany, France and Belgium, with some quantities going to the United States Armed Forces in Western Germany.

Cheese exports in 1955 totaled 114.4 million pounds, or 13 percent less than in 1954. Of total 1955 shipments, approximately 40 percent went to Western Germany, about 21 percent to the United Kingdom. Other important markets were Italy, Eastern Germany, Sweden and the United States.

The export of fresh fluid milk products, which included fresh fluid whole milk and cream and fresh fluid buttermilk, was about 38 percent above 1954. This increase was due primarily to expanded sales of whole milk to the United States Armed Forces in Western Germany and to higher sales of cream to Venezuela. The larger export to the United States Forces was facilitated by the conversion of bottling plants in south Jutland from glass bottles to paper cartons for handling milk.

Overall exports of canned milk from Denmark in 1955 amounted to 66.7 million pounds, an increase of little more than 2 percent over 1954. The export of condensed whole milk was the only milk product of importance which increased over the earlier year and was up by 8 percent. The principal markets were southeastern Asiatic countries, particularly Burma, India, Thailand, French Indo-China, Indonesia and British Malaya.

Exports of dried milk in 1955, 30.8 million pounds, rose 20 percent over 1954. The major outlets were Brazil, British Malaya, Trinidad and Indonesia.

CHOCOLATE CRUMB SUPPLIES DOWN IN 1955

Supplies of chocolate crumb, the whole milk-cocoa-sugar product used in the confectionery industry, were considerably under that of calendar 1954. Most of the decline is attributed to the drop in production by exporting countries with the increase in production during the past few years in the United Kingdom, the largest importer and user of the product. In 1955 United Kingdom production totaled an estimated 128 million pounds compared to 123 million pounds processed in the previous year. The amount of milk going to chocolate crumb manufacture in the United Kingdom in 1955 was more than 338 million pounds.

However, the increased output in the United Kingdom was not sufficient to offset drops in production in other producing countries, notably the Republic of Ireland. Irish chocolate crumb has traditionally found its market in Britain. In 1953 when Britain jumped its milk utilization for chocolate crumb to more than 181 million pounds from less than 66 million pounds so utilized in 1952 the effect on the Irish industry was immediate. In 1955 the production of chocolate crumb in Ireland at an estimated 85 million pounds is 20 percent under that for 1954. Irish exports to the United Kingdom were only 74.7 million pounds in 1955 compared with 83.7 million pounds in 1954 and 105.6 million pounds in 1953. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, April 2, 1956).

New Zealand and the Netherlands, which had exported more than 4.5 million pounds of the chocolate crumb preparation to Britain in 1954, dropped out of the market completely last year. Denmark's shipments at 140,000 pounds in 1955 were less than one-tenth of its shipments during the previous year to the United Kingdom. As a result, Ireland's reduced shipments of 74.7 million pounds represented 99.8 percent of United Kingdom imports during 1955. Total supplies in the United Kingdom, in spite of the increase in domestic output, were, at about 202 million pounds, 5 percent under 1954.

Ireland's outlook with regard to chocolate crumb is (not bright). One of the largest concerns, a British-controlled factory, ceased production in September 1955. Other manufacturers have been attempting to find new outlets for their product.

GREEK MILK PRODUCTION UP DURING 1955

During 1955 total Greek milk production was up 12 percent from 1954 and totaled 1.8 billion pounds. Better pastures, a gradual increase in the number of improved animals, and a slight increase in total milk animal numbers are the responsible factors. Over 60 percent of the milk production in Greece comes from sheep and goats.

A major part of the milk production is utilized locally by the producers in the manufacture of soft and hard cheeses and butter. Output of these products in 1955 reflected the increased milk production; 21.1 million pounds of butter was produced, an increase of 11 percent over 1954 and 157.7 million pounds of cheese was produced, an increase of 13 percent over the previous year. Approximately one-fifth of the cheese is the hard-type and the remainder is the soft-type Greek cheese.

There are 6 milk pasteurizing plants operating in Greece near the population centers of Athens, Volos, and Salonika (see Foreign Crops and Markets, August 29, 1955). About 85 percent of their output is pasteurized milk but this product utilizes only a small percentage of the total Greek milk production.

ISLAND OF MALTA TO IMPROVE DAIRY FARMING

Because goats give the largest share of the milk produced on the Island of Malta, the yield is primarily seasonal, being concentrated in the spring. As a result, there is an alternating surplus-deficit problem. Because cows have a more evenly distributed milk yield, the Government has started the importation of milk cows from the Netherlands for distribution to farmers in exchange for goats. In line with the cattle importation program, the government is also allowing increased fodder imports to step up the production of cows already on the island.

While Malta will probably always have to import some fodder, the Government hopes to build up local production and intends to spend considerable funds in fodder production. Currently the cost of fodder imports has been set at $3.5 million annually.

DAIRY PRODUCTION AND TRADE IN DAIRY PRODUCTS IN U.S.S.R. AND EASTERN EUROPE

Cow numbers in the Soviet Union are reported to have increased from 27.5 million in October 1954 to 29.2 million in October 1955, a gain of 6.2 percent. Factory butter production in 1955 is estimated at about 960 million pounds, an increase of 18 percent over the previous year. Factory cheese production was up 22 percent. Under the Soviet Union's 5-year plan for 1956-60, milk production is supposed to increase 95 percent.

Imports of butter into the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in 1955 amounted to 49.1 million pounds, as against 134.0 million pounds in the previous year. Of the quantity imported in 1955, the Union's take was 2.2 million pounds, compared with 67.8 million pounds in 1954.

While shipments to Eastern Germany also were smaller, those to Czechoslovakia were much larger and came mostly from New Zealand. Some butter was also shipped from Canada to Czechoslovakia and Eastern Germany.

Cheese imports in 1955 amounted to 21.5 million pounds--only 70 percent of the preceding year. Finland and Denmark were the chief suppliers in 1955, but exports from both countries of the area were down from 1954.

U.S.S.R. and Eastern Europe: Estimated imports of butter and cheese in 1955, compared with 1954

Item and Origin	1954				1955			
	U.S.S.R.	Eastern Germany	Czecho-slovakia	Total	U.S.S.R.	Eastern Germany	Czecho-slovakia	Total
	1,000 pounds				1,000 pounds			
BUTTER								
Canada	--------	-------	--------	-------	--------	6,048	1,232	7,280
New Zealand	25,536	-------	1,120	26,656	2,240	-------	13,440	15,680
Denmark	22,736	15,120	1,120	38,976	--------	3,808	1,680	5,488
Netherlands	7,280	21,504	10,528	39,312	--------	9,968	3,584	13,552
Sweden	2,688	13,776	1,120	17,584	--------	1,344	448	1,792
Argentina	8,400	-------	--------	8,400	--------	1,680	--------	1,680
France	--------	-------	--------	-------	--------	2,240	1,344	3,584
Finland	1,120	896	1,008	3,024	--------	-------	--------	------
Total	67,760	51,296	14,896	133,952	2,240	25,088	21,728	49,056
CHEESE								
Denmark	--------	8,624	--------	8,624	1,232	6,272	--------	7,504
Netherlands	6,720	224	112	7,056	--------	336	--------	336
Finland	--------	10,752	4,144	14,896	784	10,304	2,576	13,664
Total	6,720	19,600	4,256	30,576	2,016	16,912	2,576	21,504

CANNED MILK EXPORTS FROM U.K. HIGHER IN 1955

The switch from a net importer to a net exporter of canned milk by the United Kingdom, which was evident in 1954, continued in 1955, when shipments of both types totaled more than 93.0 million pounds, as compared with 52.2 million pounds a year earlier. Malaya was again the principal market for canned whole milk, taking 42.8 million pounds in 1955, an increase of 20.2 million pounds over 1954. Other important outlets in 1955 were Trinidad, Jamaica and Malta.

Exports of condensed skimmed milk also continued to expand in 1955, amounting to 11.7 million pounds, as against 4.5 million pounds in the preceding year. The major outlets in 1955 were British West Indies, Mauritius, Malta and Hong Kong.

Prior to 1954, the United Kingdom had been a major importer of canned milk. In 1953, imports were 70.7 million pounds and exports were only 3.7 million pounds. In 1938, the United Kingdom imported 183.0 million pounds of canned milk, while exporting only 31.4 million pounds.

Production of all types of canned milk rose from 258.5 million pounds in 1954 to 366.4 million pounds in 1955. While this represented a gain of approximately 42 percent, it was only 77 percent of the 473.8 million pounds produced in the prewar period.

Notwithstanding the large inroads made by exports into canned milk supplies and the sharp drop in imports, consumption of all types of canned milk in 1955 in the United Kingdom is estimated to have increased approximately 47.0 million pounds over the 280.0 million pounds consumed in 1954. Condensed whole milk accounted for 269.0 million pounds in 1955, compared with 233.0 million pounds in the earlier year.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS ISSUED--(Continued from Page 459)

Foreign Agricultural Trade Digest, March issue.

The Agricultural Economy of Libya, by Hilda M. Canady.

Italy Has Short Supply of Durum, but Excess Supply of Nondurum Wheat. Foreign Agriculture Circular FG 6-56.

SOUTH AFRICAN WHALE
OIL PRODUCTION UP

Advance reports state that the Union of South Africa's whaling fleet recovered a total of about 20,500 short tons of oil during the 1955-56 Antarctic whaling season. Of this total, approximately 15,100 tons were whale oil, and 5,400 tons were sperm oil. The total is about 11 percent larger than the 18,480 tons produced in 1954-55 but less than the 1953-54 total of 27,440 tons.

Up to February 18, Norway's 9 whaling expeditions to the Antarctic had reportedly produced approximately 91,200 short tons of oil as compared with the 81,300 tons that had been recovered on February 19 of last year.

World Cattle Numbers 1955 and Estimates for 1956

World cattle numbers at the beginning of 1956 are estimated to be about 918 million head, 1 percent larger than a year earlier and 22 percent above prewar. Numbers are now around 17 percent above the 1946-50 average. Water buffalo are included with cattle in countries where they are numerous.

World cattle numbers continued to increase during 1955 for the ninth consecutive year, but the increase was the smallest in several years. For several postwar years cattle numbers have undergone a rapid increase; they increased 36 million head in 1951, 23 million in 1952 and 20 million in 1953. The gain in 1954 was 15 million head and in 1955 only 6 million. Although the increase in numbers slowed during 1955, there were small increases for all major geographic areas.

Compared with prewar, cattle are particularly numerous in Africa, North and South America and in Oceania; in Europe and Asia they are only moderately above prewar.

The long upward gain in world cattle numbers reflects a recovery in Europe from the low levels reached during World War II. It also was a period of generally rising prices of cattle in South America, New Zealand and Australia. Cattle prices in the United States and Canada rose materially from the end of World War II to 1952 and this proved a big stimulus to increased cattle production. The continued increase in Africa reflects improved production practices in the warm tropical regions and higher returns from cattle production. The increases in the Orient reflect a steady gain in the need both for work stock and dairy animals in countries like Pakistan and India. In Japan, Communist China, the Philippine Republic and Korea the increases reflect the recovery from the effect of World War II and the Korean War.

The large increase in cattle numbers in recent years will be reflected in continued large world production of beef. Beef production could increase even more sharply if drought or other unfavorable conditions should cause a reduction in herds in one or more of the major beef producing countries.

World demand for beef continues strong, however, and the current large production is moving readily into consumption at fairly satisfactory prices to producers, except in the United States and possibly in a few other countries. Increased living standards in the Western Hemisphere, Africa, and Europe are contributing to the strong demand. The exportable surplus of beef from Australia and New Zealand is moving readily into World markets. A few countries in Europe, including France and Norway are experiencing beef surpluses, brought about by price supports, and have been seeking export markets.

CATTLE: Number in Specified Countries, Averages 1936-40 and 1946-50, Annual 1951-56

Continent and Country	Month of Estimate 1/	Average 1936-40	Average 1946-50	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955 2/	1956 2/
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
NORTH AMERICA									
Canada	Dec. 1 1/	8,246	8,883	8,292	7,936	8,906	9,371	9,473	9,660
Costa Rica		366	3/ 556	685	-	-	696	804	-
El Salvador	July	680	3/ 700	1/ 825	-	615	-	-	-
Guatemala	July	520	3/ 900	-	-	-	-	-	-
Honduras	July	524	3/ 1,000	-	1,140	1,175	-	-	-
Mexico	Dec. 31 1/	3/4/11,716	13,530	14,700	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,800	16,000
Nicaragua		3/ 800	3/ 1,235	1,275	1,182	1,250	1,200	-	-
Panama		3/ 434	5/ 567	1/ 577	-	568	579	-	-
United States	Jan. 1	66,706	78,951	82,083	88,072	94,241	95,679	96,592	97,465
Cuba	Dec. 31 1/	5,024	4,500	4,600	4,440	4,000	4,440	4,447	4,500
Dominican Republic	July	3/ 885	887	857	860	860	-	-	-
Estimated Total		96,700	112,700	116,800	122,600	129,300	131,800	133,800	135,100
EUROPE									
Austria	Dec. 31 1/	3/ 2,600	6/ 2,173	2,460	2,400	2,347	2,300	2,304	2,346
Belgium	Jan. 1	1/ 1,724	1,674	2,020	2,127	2,151	2,213	2,252	2,250
Denmark	Dec. 31 1/	3,108	2,881	2,974	2,932	2,953	2,999	3,089	3,082
Finland	June 15	7/ 1,850	8/ 1,598	1,814	1,851	1,809	1,885	1,902	-
France	Oct. 1 1/	15,500	15,073	15,808	16,235	16,194	16,889	17,322	17,560
Germany, Western	Dec. 1 1/	3/ 12,114	10,831	11,148	11,375	11,641	11,641	11,521	11,552
Greece 9/	Dec. 31 1/	5/ 1,278	742	809	915	976	990	1,010	1,025
Ireland	June	4,021	4,093	4,376	4,309	4,397	4,504	4,483	-
Italy	Jan. 1	8,550	7,838	8,331	8,376	8,690	8,989	9,033	-
Luxembourg	Dec. 1 1/	3/ 108	114	118	124	-	-	127	-
Netherlands	May	2,693	2,471	2,863	2,858	2,934	3,026	2,983	-
Norway	June 20	1,390	1,226	1,231	1,152	1,150	1,181	1,171	
Portugal	Dec. 31 1/	10/ 832	975	-	-	-	930	-	-
Spain 11/	April 1	-	3/ 3,206	-	3,150	3,128	3,184	-	-
Sweden	Summer	2,959	2,705	2,633	2,532	2,554	2,582	2,575	-
Switzerland	April	1,663	1,471	1,607	1,682	1,635	1,593	1,583	-
United Kingdom	June	8,798	9,973	10,473	10,244	10,444	10,718	10,670	-
Yugoslavia 9/	Jan.	1/ 4,281	3/ 5,322	4,789	4,885	5,067	5,167	5,340	-
Estimated Total		102,500	95,800	101,000	102,100	103,000	105,300	105,900	106,700
Western Europe		76,400	74,400	77,600	78,100	79,200	81,000	81,500	82,100
Other Europe		26,100	21,400	23,400	24,000	23,800	24,300	24,400	24,600
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	Jan. 1	5/ 59,800	50,800	57,200	58,800	56,600	12/ 63,000	12/ 64,900	-
ASIA									
Iran	March	3/ 2,797	2,700	3,600	4,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	-
Turkey 9/	Dec. 3 1/	8,611	10,826	11,071	11,363	11,708	11,803	12,005	-
Pakistan 9/	Jan. 1	3/ 33,000	5/ 30,000	29,650	29,049	29,100	29,320	29,500	-
British Malaya		531	440	482	506	527	531	541	-
Burma 9/	Dec. 31 1/	6,165	3/ 5,030	-	5,358	5,769	6,045	6,270	-
Ceylon	May	1/ 1,625	1/ 1,732	1,680	1,816	1,884	1,984	2,030	-
China 9/ 13/	May	5/ 37,100	3/ 33,100	34,800	37,300	40,700	-	-	-
India 9/	Jan. 1	5/ 180,000	178,200	180,227	199,271	205,300	207,800	209,000	-
Indonesia 9/	Dec. 31 1/	7,669	3/ 6,330	7,318	8,417	8,838	8,971	9,090	-
Japan	Feb. 1	1/ 1,798	2,167	2,460	2,671	2,826	2,899	3,015	3,130
Korea - South	Dec. 31 1/	3/ 922	646	6/ 393	573	661	668	763	867
Philippine Islands 9/	Jan. 1	4,148	2,340	3,058	3,178	3,272	3,546	3,939	4,268
Taiwan (Formosa) 9/	Dec. 31 1/	354	307	365	375	383	395	406	410
Thailand	Mar. 31	11,283	10,006	9,593	7,462	6,490	7,629	8,000	-
Estimated Total 14/		307,000	293,600	299,000	320,800	332,400	337,900	341,800	342,500

SOUTH AMERICA									
Argentina	July	3/ 33,762	41,150	38,000	39,000	40,900	42,000	44,000	44,000
Bolivia		5/ 1,842	5/ 1,493	1,650	1,850	-	-	-	-
Brazil	Dec. 31 1/	40,807	46,200	52,655	53,513	55,854	57,626	61,422	64,000
Chile	June	2,489	2,345	2,186	2,293	2,409	-	-	-
Colombia	Dec. 31 1/	3/ 8,010	14,148	15,512	15,090	13,000	13,650	-	-
Ecuador		3/ 1,300	5/ 1,520	1,300	1,200	2,000	1,216	-	-
Paraguay	Dec. 31 1/	3/ 3,259	3/ 3,890	3,763	3,857	4,432	-	-	-
Peru	May	-	3/ 2,790	3,140	3,189	3,190	3,189	-	-
Uruguay	May	5/ 8,297	7,875	8,154	8,000	8,013	7,819	6,700	-
Venezuela		-	-	1/ 5,360	5,674	1/ 6,500	6,000	6,100	-
Estimated Total		105,500	126,500	131,900	133,900	138,300	140,400	145,700	148,300
AFRICA									
Algeria 16/	April	841	759	810	846	864	892	-	-
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan		3/ 2,700	3/ 3,350	4,000	4,785	-	-	-	-
Belgian Conga (Incl. Ruandi-Urandi)	Dec. 31 1/	3/ 1,237	3/ 1,572	1,649	1,697	1,659	1,670	-	-
Kenya	Dec. 1/	3/ 5,239	5,150	5,612	6,621	6,646	6,650	-	-
Tanganyika	Dec. 31 1/	5,000	3/ 6,324	6,110	6,260	6,470	6,630	6,490	-
Uganda	Mar. 31	2,466	3/ 2,464	2,714	2,714	2,745	2,800	-	-
Basutoland	Feb.	437	3/ 430	401	-	-	-	-	-
Bechuanaland	Dec. 31 1/	753	3/ 948	1,027	1,052	-	-	-	-
Swaziland	Dec. 31 1/	407	436	417	409	424	421	-	-
Egypt 9/	July 1	3/ 2,076	2,810	3,000	3,021	2,888	2,765	-	-
Ethiopia (incl. Eritrea)	July	-	3/ 18,460	19,200	20,200	20,200	20,000	-	-
Federation Nyasaland & Rhodesias	Dec. 31 1/	3,187	3,912	4,162	4,166	4,192	4,274	4,355	-
French Morocco 16/	Dec. 31 1/	1,970	1,652	2,027	2,135	2,286	-	-	-
Madagascar 15/	Dec. 31 1/	5,172	5,700	5,663	5,892	5,898	5,910	-	-
Mozambique	Dec. 31 1/	548	632	738	768	797	-	-	-
Angola		5/ 2,306	3/ 1,281	1,394	1,400	1,221	1,157	-	-
Spanish Morocco		259	255	300	315	333	344	-	-
Tunisia	Dec. 31 1/	494	394	397	475	401	483	-	-
Union of South Africa	August	11,636	12,285	11,565	11,768	11,700	11,604	-	-
Estimated Total		64,400	86,500	90,600	94,600	95,300	96,200	97,400	97,400
OCEANIA									
Australia	Mar. 31	1/ 13,285	13,971	15,228	14,893	15,247	15,601	15,823	16,200
New Zealand	Jan. 31	4,449	4,723	5,060	5,165	5,446	5,745	5,887	6,000
Estimated Total		18,100	19,100	20,700	20,500	21,100	21,700	22,100	22,600
Estimated World Total		754,000	785,000	817,200	853,300	876,000	896,300	911,600	917,600

1/End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. Thus for Canada the December 1950 estimate of 8,292,000 is shown under 1951. 2/Preliminary. 3/Average for 2 to 4 years only. 4/June. 5/Census or estimate for single year. 6/Official statistics; may be under estimates of actual numbers. 7/September. 8/March. 9/Data include buffaloes. 10/Census December 31, 1934. 11/Cattle one year old and older. 12/October. 13/1952 data National estimate of China mainland. Excludes outer Mongolia. 14/Includes estimates for Outer Mongolia. 15/Data include only number taxed.

Compiled from official sources, reports of agricultural attaches and other U.S. representatives abroad. Data for countries having changed boundaries relate to present territory. Totals include estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable. Foreign Agricultural Service. April 1956.

Cattle numbers continued to increase slightly in North America during 1955. Gains were noted in the United States, Mexico, Canada and Cuba.

During 1955 numbers increased slightly in Europe, but the changes for most countries were small. Numbers in France established a new all-time high. Meat prices in France are relatively high, prices to producers are supported by Government purchases of beef and special export programs are in operation to dispose of Government stocks.

Numbers probably also rose to a new peak in the United Kingdom, where government price support programs are offering a definite stimulus to greater production. Numbers increased in Western Germany, Austria, Greece, Ireland, and Italy. Denmark's total dropped slightly and is still below prewar. Apparently cattle numbers have about outrun feed supplies in a number of European countries in view of present patterns of crop production and other livestock numbers.

Cattle numbers apparently are continuing upward in Asia. The total for Japan is now 45 percent above the 1946-50 average and more than double prewar. Numbers in the Philippine Republic are larger than prewar and have nearly doubled since the end of World War II. Cattle have continued to increase in recent years in India, Pakistan, Burma, Ceylon, South Korea and Formosa. In most of the Asian countries cattle and water buffalo are used principally for draft purposes. Milk and meat production are of minor significance. As the human populations of that area increase there are somewhat corresponding needs for more draft power to meet the larger human food requirements.

Apparently cattle numbers changed little in Argentina last year after reaching a peak at the first of 1955, but numbers increased considerably in Brazil. As numbers increased for several years in Argentina slaughter was held at relatively low levels. During 1955 slaughter increased sharply and apparently arrested the upward trend in numbers. Cattle prices in Brazil have been increasing although they are still under governmental control. Slaughter quotas may have restricted slaughter. Demand for beef has increased materially. There has been considerable expansion of cattle production in the tropical areas of the country and the development of new farms. Cattle production is developing rapidly in Colombia and Venezuela, with Government encouragement to cattle improvement and the introduction of cattle adapted to the tropical and semi-tropical areas of those countries.

Cattle numbers in Africa are now estimated at about 97 million head or about the same total as in the United States. Seven countries have more than 5 million head -- Kenya, Tanganyika, Ethiopia, French West Africa, Madagascar, Nigeria and the Cameroons, and the Union of South Africa. There is still a large potential for an increase in cattle numbers and production in Africa. This improvement will come about by the development of cattle better adapted to the area, improved husbandry practices, and better control of the tsetse fly, other natural pests and diseases.

The trend in numbers and beef production in both Australia and New Zealand is still upward. Widespread rains over most of Australia have caused keen demand for feeder cattle and increased prices. Cattle slaughter in New Zealand during 1955 was considerably larger than a year earlier; in Australia slaughter was about the same as during 1954.

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EXPORT POSSIBILITIES FOR MEAT
PRODUCTS TO SWITZERLAND

There is a good outlet for the export of a limited amount of variety meats from the United States to Switzerland. Export possibilities appear best for frozen ox tongues, cooked frozen beef tripe, canned pork tongues, and frozen sweetbreads.

During 1955 Switzerland imported 3.8 million pounds of variety meats and canned meats from all countries, compared with 3.1 million a year earlier and 1.8 million pounds in 1953. The United States supplied 36 percent of the importations of these items during 1955, about the same proportion as in the previous two years.

There is a steady market for beef tongues. Trade sources estimate almost half of the importations come from the United States. Tongues for export should be short cut and trimmed of all fat. Tongues are also imported from France, Western Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands.

At the present time there is a strong demand for frozen beef and hog livers. Swiss veterinary regulations in principle do not allow imports of liver, kidneys, hearts and brains separated from the carcass. However, imports of frozen livers separated from the carcass are authorized if imported by reliable concerns and are used in the manufacture of cooked and canned products. Apparently this requirement is imposed to prevent the spread of hog cholera from infected pork livers. There is a very limited market for kidneys, hearts, and brains so this inspection regulation has little effect on trade in these products.

Swiss importers have found it difficult to obtain pork loins at reasonable prices in Europe and are looking to new sources of supply. Demand for this item comes largely from hotels and restaurants, and has been enhanced by the increasing number of tourists. Swiss importers made fairly large importations of pork luncheon meat from Canada in 1954 but the product was too salty to suit the consumers, and no other imports have been made since that time. There is only a limited demand for imports of frozen pork sides, dry salt fatbacks, frozen pork tongues, and calf tongues.

Swiss meat importations are closely regulated by the Federal Division of Agriculture. Total and individual quotas for imports of live cattle and hogs are set every 14 days, depending on the market situation. In the case of frozen carcasses, quotas are granted 3 to 4 months in advance for meat which is being stored, and every 14 days to cover current requirements for consumption. For imports of frozen meat products there are general overall quotas and quotas for individual importers.

Swiss import duties are high but not prohibitive. For most variety meets the duty is 50 francs per 100 kilograms, or about 5 cents per pound. In addition to the duty, a small statistical fee is collected and there are fees for veterinary control.

Swiss Import Duties on Specified Meat Products

Tariff Classification	Description	Duty	
		In Swiss francs per 100 kg. net 1/	In cents per pound 2/
77 b	Fatbacks, dry salt	75	7.8
78	Beef variety meats (frozen)	50	5.2
78	Pork variety meats (frozen)	50	5.2
77 c	Frozen beef and mutton	40	4.2
76 a	Fresh veal	45	4.8
76 b	Fresh pork	70	7.3
76 c	Other fresh meat	35	3.6
77 a	Hams, cured, salted, cooked, canned	65	6.8
143	Live hogs and frozen hog sides	10	1.1

1/ In addition to the duty a statistical fee is collected of 10 centimes per 100 kg.; a fee for veterinary inspection, varying for most items but mostly amounting to 13 centimes, net weight, per kilogram. The veterinary control fee for canned goods is 20 centimes per kilogram.

2/ Calculated at 1 franc = $0.23

REVIEW OF THE 1955-56 WORLD CORN CROP

World corn production in 1955-56 is estimated at 6,195 million bushels, on the basis of the latest information available to the Foreign Agricultural Service. This is very slightly larger than the previous estimate published in Foreign Crops and Markets February 6, 1956 and is, as there pointed out, a new record high. The previous record in 1948 was about 6 billion bushels. The current estimate is 620 million bushels above the small 1955 harvest.

The bulk of that increase is in the Soviet Union and the United States. Unprecedented corn acreage was reported in the Soviet Union as a result of the official program emphasizing corn. A large part of that acreage, however, was harvested in an immature stage for silage and fodder. Production in the United States was about 175 million bushels more than in 1954.

Corn production in North America is estimated at 3,417 million bushels, compared with 3,248 million in 1954. Most of the increase was in the United States. An increase of about 10 million bushels in Canada was more than offset by a reduction in Mexico, the second largest corn producer of the continent.

The corn harvest in Europe is now estimated at 690 million bushels. This is back at the prewar level after a succession of below-average harvests, It is sharply above the 1945-49 average of 555 million bushels and 75 million bushels above the 1954 outturn. A good part of that increase is in the Danube Basin countries, where growing conditions were much more favorable than in 1954. Outturns in some Western European countries were also larger, especially in France and Italy whose corn crops were among the largest of record.

Corn acreage in the Soviet Union was officially announced at 44 million acres or 4 times the 1954 acreage. Production greatly exceeds that of any previous year, despite the fact that much of the crop on new acreage was grown for silage or green fodder, not for grain, and was harvested before reaching maturity. The increase in corn acreage was largely at the expense of oats, barley, other forage crops, and summerfallow. The acreage was expanded not only in the traditional corn areas of the South, but also in a number of the more northern and eastern regions where climatic conditions do not appear to favor corn production. Crop conditions this year were variable, mostly good in the southern regions and adverse in the east and northwest.

Asia's estimated production of 730 million bushels is below the high level of the past 3 years but is still well above average. The current estimate is 25 million bushels less than in 1954, mainly because of smaller crops in India and Indonesia. Corn acreage in this area has increased considerably in recent years.

In Africa the current estimate of 320 million is 30 million bushels less than the large 1954 crop but is sharply above average. The above average crop is principally due to expansion of the area in corn in many countries, especially in the Union of South Africa. In that country, the current acreage of 8.5 million acres contrasts with about 7 million in 1935-39 and 7.1 million in 1945-49. Acreage is also larger in Egypt, the second largest corn producer of the continent. The harvest in the Union of South Africa is now under way, and tentative forecasts place the outturn at about 105 million bushels. That is somewhat smaller than early prospects had indicated.

CORN: Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified countries, year of harvest, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1953-55 1/

Continent and country	Acreage 2/					Yield per acre 3/					Production				
	Average		1953	1954	1955 4/	Average		1953	1954	1955 4/	Average		1953	1954	1955 4/
	1935-39	1945-49				1935-39	1945-49				1935-39	1945-49			
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
NORTH AMERICA															
Canada	172	244	362	418	507	40.8	45.2	57.6	53.4	62.1	7,010	11,038	20,854	22,339	31,510
Guatemala	1,000	1,208	1,380	1,380	-	15.7	14.9	13.8	13.1	-	15,700	17,991	19,000	18,100	-
Honduras	5/ 258	-	-	-	-	5/ 14.0	-	-	-	-	3,717	-	-	-	-
Mexico	7,501	8,894	10,725	10,870	9,884	9.0	10.7	11.7	14.5	14.3	67,523	95,389	125,980	157,470	141,720
Nicaragua	5/ 86	174	346	278	-	5/ 17.4	16.0	15.5	11.6	-	1,500	2,782	5,380	3,220	-
United States	92,699	85,696	80,608	80,369	79,955	25.0	35.7	39.6	37.5	39.8	2,315,554	3,056,861	3,192,491	3,010,248	3,184,836
Cuba	360	433	411	435	430	16.7	16.3	16.1	16.1	15.6	6,000	7,068	6,600	7,000	6,690
Estimated total 6/	103,330	98,540	95,850	95,740	94,450	-	-	-	-	-	2,435,000	3,217,000	3,401,000	3,248,000	3,417,000
EUROPE															
Albania	235	242	-	-	-	21.6	20.7	-	-	-	5,067	5,020	-	-	-
Austria	163	152	160	148	148	39.2	25.5	36.9	39.7	40.4	6,384	3,870	5,900	5,880	5,980
Bulgaria	2,035	-	-	-	-	17.5	-	-	-	-	35,657	-	-	-	-
Czechoslovakia	5/ 285	353	-	-	-	5/ 31.6	25.8	-	-	-	5/ 9,000	9,098	-	-	-
France	839	649	927	1,014	1,100	26.3	16.2	34.1	37.1	35.8	22,096	10,491	31,600	37,600	39,330
Germany	85	-	-	-	-	47.1	-	-	-	-	4,000	-	-	-	-
Greece	650	582	664	647	-	15.5	14.7	18.3	15.5	-	10,078	8,564	12,170	10,040	-
Hungary	2,924	-	-	-	-	31.5	-	-	-	-	92,007	-	-	-	-
Italy	3,583	3,250	3,350	3,360	3,350	31.5	28.0	37.8	34.6	37.5	113,000	90,980	126,500	116,300	125,720
Portugal	1,235	1,238	1,173	1,201	1,207	12.1	10.0	11.7	12.7	11.7	15,000	12,368	13,760	15,200	14,110
Rumania	9,870	-	-	-	-	17.4	-	-	-	-	172,000	-	-	-	-
Spain	5/ 1,094	850	975	1,000	925	5/ 28.4	22.6	29.9	29.5	28.4	5/ 31,076	19,200	29,200	29,500	26,300
Yugoslavia	6,615	-	-	-	-	26.7	-	-	-	-	176,600	-	-	-	-
Estimated total 6/	29,680	27,490	26,030	27,110	27,830	-	-	-	-	-	695,000	555,000	645,000	615,000	690,000
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	10,000	7,550	-	-	-	17.0	15.0	-	-	-	170,000	113,000	-	-	-
ASIA															
Turkey	1,098	1,394	1,534	1,779	1,780	20.9	16.1	19.5	20.2	18.9	22,971	22,406	29,900	35,980	33,620
China	5/ 12,000	12,711	-	-	-	5/ 21.8	21.6	-	-	-	5/ 262,000	274,013	-	-	-
Manchuria	3,720	6,680	-	-	-	23.3	19.5	-	-	-	86,585	130,000	-	-	-
India 7/	5/ 5,526	7,761	9,360	9,325	9,000	5/ 12.2	10.3	12.7	12.6	12.0	5/ 67,240	79,836	118,560	117,760	108,000
Pakistan 7/	5/ 811	986	1,067	1,068	1,038	5/ 17.7	16.9	16.4	16.5	16.1	5/ 14,360	16,688	17,480	17,600	16,700
Indochina	1,053	-	-	-	-	21.2	-	-	-	-	22,365	-	-	-	-
Indonesia	5,800	5,500	-	-	-	15.2	15.6	-	-	-	88,000	86,000	100,000	98,000	-
Japan	128	133	173	168	168	24.2	21.7	22.5	19.6	20.4	3,094	2,881	3,900	3,300	3,430
Korea	5/ 321	-	-	-	-	5/ 13.0	-	-	-	-	5/ 4,177	-	-	-	-
Philippine Republic	1,765	1,820	2,768	2,933	-	8.9	10.1	11.1	10.3	-	15,715	18,340	30,740	30,320	-
Estimated total 6/	36,090	41,080	43,960	44,350	44,110	-	-	-	-	-	635,000	685,000	750,000	755,000	730,000

AFRICA															
Belgian Congo	5/ 179	670	-	-	-	5/ 19.6	17.9	-	-	-	3,500	12,000	-	-	-
Kenya 8/	103	136	164	174	-	30.3	24.9	27.4	32.6	-	3,121	3,393	4,500	5,670	-
Egypt	1,599	1,699	2,091	1,977	1,903	39.7	33.4	34.9	34.9	35.2	63,508	56,696	72,950	69,000	67,020
French Morocco	1,112	1,260	1,254	1,228	1,210	7.6	8.0	9.3	8.2	9.0	8,505	10,074	11,700	10,080	10,890
French West Africa	5/ 1,732	-	-	-	-	5/ 12.4	-	-	-	-	5/ 21,473	-	-	-	-
Madagascar	260	214	-	-	-	15.3	11.6	-	-	-	3,969	2,472	-	-	-
Angola	1,435	-	-	-	-	9.0	-	-	-	-	12,859	12,900	-	-	-
Southern Rhodesia 8/	268	293	360	400	-	22.1	18.1	26.7	24.2	-	5,923	5,298	9,600	9,700	9,650
Union of South Africa	6,989	7,111	8,490	9,500	8,500	11.5	12.2	16.5	13.7	12.4	80,132	86,699	139,920	130,000	105,000
Estimated total 6/	18,210	19,290	22,560	23,590	22,500	-	-	-	-	-	255,000	265,000	360,000	350,000	320,000
SOUTH AMERICA															
Argentina	10,775	5,363	5,965	4,603	-	28.0	28.9	29.4	21.8	-	301,986	155,012	175,190	100,230	175,000
Brazil	10,025	10,866	13,660	13,720	-	21.5	20.7	19.5	19.3	-	215,153	224,400	267,000	265,000	-
Chile	110	115	128	132	136	22.7	22.5	29.8	30.5	28.7	2,496	2,589	3,820	4,030	3,900
Colombia	5/ 1,360	1,654	1,730	2,000	-	5/ 15.1	15.4	17.5	16.1	-	19,511	25,429	30,310	32,280	-
Peru	650	780	558	568	581	15.4	17.2	22.5	20.8	21.7	10,000	13,423	12,550	11,810	12,600
Uruguay	425	395	686	682	675	12.2	10.1	12.2	10.6	11.5	5,188	3,997	8,360	7,240	7,750
Estimated total 6/	24,930	20,840	24,590	23,550	24,140	-	-	-	-	-	575,000	450,000	525,000	450,000	530,000
OCEANIA															
Australia	314	222	180	176	-	22.4	26.6	26.1	27.3	-	7,030	5,899	4,700	4,800	5,000
New Zealand	7	7	4	3	3	45.4	55.6	65.0	66.7	-	318	389	260	200	-
Estimated total 6/	325	235	190	185	185	-	-	-	-	-	7,430	6,370	5,040	5,080	5,300
Estimated world total 6/	222,570	215,030	221,780	225,130	257,220	-	-	-	-	-	4,772,000	5,290,000	5,835,000	5,575,000	6,195,000

1/ Years shown refer to years of harvest in the Northern Hemisphere. Harvests of Northern Hemisphere countries are combined with those of the Southern Hemisphere which follow; thus the crop harvested in the Northern Hemisphere in 1955 is combined with preliminary forecasts for the Southern Hemisphere harvest which begins early in 1956. 2/ Figures refer to harvested area as far as possible. 3/ Yield per acre calculated from acreage and production data shown, except for incomplete periods. 4/ Revised estimates for Northern Hemisphere countries; for the Southern Hemisphere, revised preliminary forecasts. 5/ Average of less than 5 years. 6/ Estimated totals, which in the case of production are rounded to millions, include allowances for any missing data for countries shown and for other producing countries not shown. 7/ Figures for the period shown are not strictly comparable, since figures for 1953-55 include estimates for non-reporting areas, which were not included with earlier figures shown, but allowances were included in estimated total for Asia. 8/ Production on European holdings only. Allowances for native cultivation, not shown, are included in estimated total for Africa.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Agricultural Attaches, results of office research, or other information. Prewar estimates for countries having changed boundaries have been adjusted to conform to present boundaries.

The corn harvest is also in progress in South America. Latest information points to a crop of about 530 million bushels. This would be at the 1953 level and 18 percent above the small crop last year. It is still, however, somewhat below the prewar level, largely because of the sharp reduction in Argentina. That sizable reduction is only partially offset by increases in Brazil and Colombia. The current crop in Argentina is tentatively forecast at 175 million bushels compared with 100 million last year and the 1935-39 average of 302 million bushels. The crop in Brazil, now the largest producer of the area, is indicated to be at the high level of the past 2 years.

In Australia, corn is of minor importance. A crop of 5 million bushels is forecast this season. Corn acreage has declined substantially from the prewar level but high yields have partly offset that reduction.

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